

EAST COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Meeting of November 3, 2010

Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center
3300 Briggs Chaney Road
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904

MEMBERS (ECCAB)

Present: Marva Deskins, Esq. (Chair); David M. Kochanski, Esq. (Vice Chair); Anthony Ramirez (Secretary); Eric G. Luedtke (Parliamentarian); Vanessa E. Ali; Thomas J. Aylward; Kim Bobola; Sally Colgan; G. Stanley Doore; Allan Mulligan; Leonard E. Newman; Alfreda H. Payne, Ph.D.; Saschane M. Stephenson; Benoy Thomas; Ned B. Williams.

Absent: Peter Myo Khin; Bill Strassberger; Odessa Shannon

STAFF (EMRSC): Joy Nurmi (Director) and Anjoo Chohda (SEAA), Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center

GUESTS: Kathy Knight (New head of the State's Attorney's Office gang prosecution unit); Luis Cardona (Department of Health and Human Services, Youth Violence Prevention Coordinator); Richard A. Brown (Department of Health and Human Services, Street Outreach Network (SON)); Lt. Michael Price (Deputy Commander, Third District Montgomery County Police); Dylan Morris (3D Gang Officer, Third District Montgomery County Police); Robert Musser (4D IK, Fourth District Montgomery County Police); Ed Weiler (Broadmore Hills Park); Jeremy Arias (Gazette Reporter); Teddy Wu (Resident); Sharon Wilder (Cross Creek Club Community); Mara Parker (Staff, Councilmember Marc Elrich's office); Miti Figueredo (Staff, Councilmember Nancy Navarro's office); Rabbi Bruce Kahn (Resident, Gum Springs Farm Citizens Association); Dan Wilhlem (Greater Colesville Citizens Association (GCCA) and Montgomery County Civic Federation (MCCF)); Bob Bartul (Greater Colesville Citizens Association (GCCA)); Bob Sylwester (Valley Streams Estates); Barbara Foresti (White Oak Master Plan/Quaint Acres); Whitney Teal (Editor, Colesville Patch); Mark Pharoh (Chair, Eastern County Recreation Advisory Board); Ella Kelly (Resident); Kristin O'Connor (Senior Planner, M-NCPPC); Eileen Finnegan (Hillandale Citizens Association)

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Chair Marva Deskins – Welcomed everyone and presided over the meeting. The guests were asked to introduce themselves and share their concerns with the board. The floor was opened for questions.

Ed Weiler (Broadmore Hills Park) – expressed his concerns on crime increase (drug dealings, car break-ins, burglary) in the community. Things are going out of control.

Allan Mulligan – Board member Eric Luedtke is elected as State Delegate.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

Chair Marva Deskins –Announced presentations by

(a) Presentation by Kathy Knight, New head of the State’s Attorney’s Office gang prosecution unit. Update on the structure of their gang unit and how they work with the police and various community organizations.

(b) Luis Cardona and Richard A. Brown, Montgomery County’s Gang Prevention Initiative

(c) Lt. Michael Price (Deputy Commander, Third District Montgomery County Police); Dylan Morris (3D Gang Officer, Third District Montgomery County Police); Robert Musser (4D IK, Fourth District Montgomery County Police)

PRESENTATIONS

1. Dylan Morris, 3D Gang Officer (Special Investigations), Third District and **Rob Musser**, Special Investigations section, Fourth District, Montgomery County Police – briefed the board on types of gangs, crime issues faced throughout the county and preventive steps taken by County Department of Police. A question and answer session followed their presentation. Officer Morris and Musser suggested holding a special Police information session to educate and update the community on crimes and gang operations.

2. Kathy Knight, new head of the State’s Attorney’s Office gang prosecution unit. Gave a brief introduction about self and thanked the board for the invitation. Kathy updated the board on the structure of their gang unit and how they work with the police and various community organizations.

The Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office, in collaboration with GOCCP, has implemented a Gang Prosecution Unit. Gang prosecutors in the Office handle all gang related cases (both adult and juvenile) from start to finish. Working closely with the other agencies, these cases are identified and handled from their initial charging through trial and sentencing.

The Gang Prosecution Unit, made possible through state and local funding, handles not just gang violence but all cases where a known gang member has been charged with a crime. The unit uses an all crimes approach to gangs, and has handled nearly 1,000 cases since its existence in 2007. The unit is also involved in a number of prevention and intervention projects that include speaking engagements and mentoring programs.

There are about 40 active gangs in Montgomery County and 1,150 members. Approximately 3,600 gang members have been identified in the D.C. metropolitan area. The Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office goal is to minimize gang activity by firmly and fairly prosecuting identified gang members and gang related cases.

The Department is structured into three main departments:

District Court Level – handles misdemeanor cases. One prosecutor is allocated.

Juvenile Division – handles cases on trespassing, graffiti, armed robbery.

Circuit Court - Prosecutors Kathy Knight and Jeffery Wennar are assigned to handle cases related to armed robbery, murders/attempted murders.

3. **Luis Cardona and Richard A. Brown**, Montgomery County's Positive Youth Prevention Program—work for the Department of Health and Human Services and are assigned to the Community Street Outreach Program (*Prevention, Enforcement, Plan and Intervention*). The mission of the Street Outreach Network is to prevent, neutralize, and control hostile behavior in high risk youth and youth gangs through the development of positive relationships between youth/community stakeholders and the outreach worker.

The Program Priorities are: Street Outreach; Resolve or Manage Street Conflict; Recreational/Leisure Activities in partnership with Community partners; Community Education; Employment and Job Opportunities; Public Relations and Inter Agency information sharing; Health Wellness and Referrals.

The Program Goals are: Prevent, reduce, and intervene with youth or gang violence; Provide high risk and gang involved youth and families with quality outreach and referrals; Develop youth leadership skills and cognitive development through sound youth development concepts.

Luis also spoke about their visit to Blake High School and developing key relationships with the students. His Department is looking forward to partnering with HOAs, civic associations, businesses, etc., to increase community awareness.

Q & A session followed.

Residents inquired about Graffiti in public areas and agency to be contacted.

Eileen Finnegan – if Graffiti is on private property, the home owner/home owner association needs to be contacted. In the event of public property, GRAB needs to be contacted.

Joy Nurmi- Anti-Graffiti Partnership (Graffiti Abatement Partners, Inc. or GRAB). To report graffiti in Montgomery County call 301.607.4722 or email kpaunil1@verizon.net

4. **Lt. Michael Price** (Deputy Commander, Third District Montgomery County Police)

Announced:

1. Tea Garden Circle update- Two Juveniles Arrested for Attempted Murder and Robbery. Detectives from the 3rd District Investigative Section are continuing to investigate a street robbery and attempted murder that occurred in the Briggs Chaney area. On Saturday, October 23, at 3:21 p.m., 3rd District patrol officers responded to the 3300 block of Teagarden Circle for the report of a robbery http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/Police/News/NA_details.asp?NaID=5691
2. 3rd District Police and Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center met with Mr. Keith Funger, Property Manager, Saul Center (White Oak Shopping Center) to discuss on crimes and security issues at the shopping center. Crime Statistics for White Oak and Briggs Chaney Shopping Center will be provided.

Q & A session followed.

Chair Deskins– Thanked the speakers for their presentations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Deskins asked for a review of the minutes of the ECCAB Meeting of October 6, 2010.

[November 3, 2010 -1] A motion to approve the minutes of October 6, 2010 was offered. The motion was moved by Tom Aylward; seconded by Len Newman and unanimously approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Joy Nurmi announced:

1. Question A did not pass the General Election; \$14 million in operating budget cuts are anticipated.
2. The Council approved Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 09-03, which limits parking in the front yards of properties in many neighborhoods.
3. Youth Advisory Committee meeting- Kim Bobola worked on the mission statement.
4. IDA Sector Meeting- met with new Lt. Mike Price
5. Meeting with Saul Centers was very effective.
6. Candlelight Vigil was held on October 30th on Briggs Chaney Road. Street Lighting issues for that areas were worked on with Council member Nancy Navarro's office, and resolved.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Announcements by Chair Deskins:

1. Allan Mulligan mentioned Eric G. Luedtke was elected as State Delegate for District 14. The board will have an opening for a member. Members congratulated Eric on his achievement.
2. Board Retreat - As previously decided that a board retreat will be organized, but since four members will be leaving the retreat has been postponed. The Chair called for setting up an Ad-Hoc Committee for ECCAB to discuss the existing three sub-committees and suggestions for its possible changes. Asked members who would be interested to serve on the committee. Kim Bobola, Tom Aylward and Allan Mulligan volunteered to serve on the Ad-Hoc Committee.
3. The letter addressed to County Executive by the board regarding RT 198/Dino Road Safety issues will be discussed at Old Business.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Nancy Navarro's office:

Miti Figueredo announced:

Council is working on \$14 million cuts. Action on two other code enforcement ZTAs are postponed until after the new Council is seated.

Council member Navarro has created a workgroup to address how County agencies are working together on youth crime issues. Council member Navarro is holding a Snow Removal Forum on November 17th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services

Center. County's Department of Transportation (DOT) Division of Highway Services will participate. A presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

Councilmember Mark Elrich's office:

Mara Parker:

Updated the Board on the progress of the Latino Youth Collaborative initiative.

Give the Police Anonymous Information through the web or cell phone is posted on County

Police website. <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/poltmlpl.asp?url=/content/pol/index.asp>

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee: Tom Aylward, Chair

The committee wants to revisit the ZTA 10-07 for the size of the parking lots for institutional facilities in all residential zones. Ned Williams discussed additional sidewalk issues in East County.

Outreach Committee: Alfreda H. Payne, Chair

The final tabulation on the Burtonsville Day 2010 survey is not complete since the surveys are lost.

Services Committee: Chair Anthony Ramirez

The Committee had a debriefing in regards to the Health Fair at Burtonsville Day. They talked about what they could do differently, what worked and how often they should do a Health Fair.

Stan Doore presented information on One Laptop Per Child.

The Services Committee members were assigned to do some follow-up research on the issue and to bring their information back to the November Services Committee meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Chair Deskins stepped out to console a board member on the sudden news of death in her family. In her absence, David Kochanski, Vice Chair presided over Old Business.

Vice Chair Kochanski – asked members to review the letter drafted to County Executive addressing Route 198/Dino Road Safety.

[November 3, 2010 -2] A motion for Board Chair to write to the County Executive and County Council addressing Route 198, Dino Road Safety issues. A vote was conducted by show of hands – all members voted for. The motion was moved by Ned Williams; seconded by Len Newman and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Deskins continued with the meeting.

Ed Weiler -Appreciated members listening to the current crime issues in Broadmore Hills Park. With the increase in crime, it is good to have a continuity with the same Police Officer in charge of the community over a long period of time, whereby when a crime occurs the resident can contact that officer.

Bruce Kahn –expressed his interest in early warning indicators with youth and a suggestion by police to coordinate efforts between schools, social services, the police department to identify kids early on who fall into this category. He agrees with similar suggestions made by a resident who lives in this community and serves as the senior management facilitator for schools at Johns Hopkins University.

Kim Bobola – suggested that the Services Committee should follow the Johns Hopkins University research on this topic.

Chair Deskins – the issue of early warning indicators for youth and the John Hopkins University research on this issue was referred to Services Committee for review and possible action.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kristin O'Connor, M-NCPPC - announced a presentation on Burtonsville is scheduled at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center on November 30, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Kim Bobola – was pleased to attend the Ribbon Cutting for a Road Opening ceremony at Lab Quest. The road is connected to Cherry Hill Road.

Eileen Finnegan – Google Earth has updated their aerials in August.

Stan Doore – suggested announcement be made in newsletters on Giving the Police Anonymous Information through the web or cell phone.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Marva Deskins – made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

[[**November 3, 2010 -3**] A motion to adjourn the meeting of November 3rd 2010 was passed. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

The next meeting of ECCAB is scheduled for December 1, 2010.

ATTACHMENT

Director's Report – November 2010

Montgomery Council Approves Limits For Parking on Residential Properties

After the ECCAB sent a letter to the Council last month urging Council members to take a vote on the County Executive's package of code enforcement legislation, the Council approved Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 09-03, which limits parking in the front yards of properties in many neighborhoods. The legislation aims to better enforce home business provisions.

After a three-hour discussion, the Council approved ZTA 09-03 by a 6-3 vote. Council members Phil Andrews, Roger Berliner, Marc Elrich, George Leventhal, Nancy Navarro and Duchy Trachtenberg voted to approve the ZTA. Council members Valerie Ervin, Nancy Floreen and Mike Knapp were opposed.

The ZTA sought to prohibit excessive parking on front yards. It also:

Requires home business operators to prove that they live where the business is taking place
Makes the current limits on home business trips more enforceable

The County has received complaints from homeowners that feel that excessive numbers of vehicles parked on the front lawns of certain homes and abuses of the home occupation provisions negatively affect the residential character of a neighborhood.

ZTA 09-03 was proposed by County Executive Isiah Leggett two years ago based on recommendations from a Code Enforcement Work Group he appointed to review a number of housing and zoning code issues that, in combination or alone, were causing adverse impacts and public safety issues in residential neighborhoods—particularly in the small-lot zones.

After a warning period, continued violators of the new regulations will face citations and fines. The Department of Permitting Services will enforce aspects of the law regarding home-based businesses, including an aspect of the ZTA that requires a person conducting a home-based occupation to prove that they live at the home. The regulations will go into effect April 24, 2011; however, over parking must cease by Oct. 24, 2011.

Property owners could be fined up to \$500 per day for each day they are found to be in violation.

The ZTA limits the amount of parking on a front yard based on its zone. In R-200, R-150 and R-90 zones, vehicles can only be parked on 30 percent of the front yard. In the R-60 and R-40 zones, vehicles can only be parked on 35 percent of the front yard. However, on lots on major streets, vehicles can be parked on 50 percent of the front yards of residences. The Department of Permitting Services is allowed to waive these requirements if necessary for public safety.

Properties that have front yards that already have a greater percentage of pavement than will be allowed do not have to remove the pavement, but cannot expand that area. After Oct. 24, 2011, those properties will be limited to parking cars only on the percentage of lot area allowed by the ZTA.

The ZTA requires at least 160 square feet of surface area per vehicle parked in a front yard. All lots are allowed a minimum of 320 square feet of area for parking in the front yard (enough for two cars) without

regard for these percentage limits.

The ZTA allows one light commercial vehicle including tow trucks that are less than 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight, shorter than 21 feet long and lower than 8 feet high to be parked on residentially zone lots.

Youth Advisory Committee

The new East County Youth Advisory Council (ECYAC) met for the first time on October 20th. The ECYAC will meet twice each month (3rd and 4th Wednesdays of each month). Our volunteer, Kim Bobola, joined the meeting and helped the youth create a vision statement.

By participating in ECYAC, youth develop valuable leadership skills while meeting new friends, earn student service learning credits, plan safe, fun teen events and make a difference in their community. They will also advise the County Executive and County Council on issues of importance to youth in the East County region.

In the coming months, the youth will create a community service project for East County. Stay tuned for more details. And, if you or someone you know might be interested in participating, download the YAC application here from our November newsletter.

October IDA Sector Meeting in White Oak

On October 12th the ECRSC, in partnership with our Third District Police, held a very successful IDA Sector Crime Prevention Meeting at the White Oak Library. The new Third District Lieutenant, Mike Price, talked about recent crime trends in the area to a crowd of about 30 people, including a representative from B.F. Saul, the management company of the White Oak and Briggs Chaney shopping centers. The principal from Greencastle Elementary school, Arienne Clark-Harrison, joined the meeting and is interesting in partnering with ECCAB on issues we have in common. She is very interested in how we might help her connect parents at her school with services and activities available in our community.

How to Report a Non-working Streetlight

With Daylight Saving Time ending this year on November 7, our afternoons will turn dark more quickly, so making sure that streetlights in our neighborhoods are working becomes more important for traffic and pedestrian safety, and crime prevention. With that in mind, we here at the East County Center would appreciate it if all of our East County residents keep an eye out for non-working streetlights and learn how to report them.

Reporting a streetlight that is not working is very easy when you use the County's web tool. Simply visit: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/trstmpl.asp?url=/content/dot/traffic/Streetlights.asp>

(Traffic Engineering Division of the County's Department of Transportation) and click on "Report a streetlight malfunction using the County map." Enter your address in the search box (or an intersection), and a map will appear with the streetlights marked in green. When you locate the streetlight that is out, click on the green dot for that light and that will transmit your request to the County.

DEP's Website Now Features Google-Based Interactive Maps; New Tool Helps Residents Learn More About Their Neighborhood Streams, Watersheds and Water Quality Conditions.

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) website now has three Google-

based map applications that are designed to help County residents identify their local streams and watersheds and learn more about their local water quality.

“Our interactive maps are simple to use and include a wealth of data that DEP scientists gather from our ongoing watershed monitoring program,” said DEP Director Bob Hoyt. *“We superimposed information about streams, rivers and watersheds onto street maps so that residents can learn more about their local drainage area or watershed.”*

To use the interactive maps, residents type in a street address, city or zip code, or simply click on a location to see the local watershed and a summary of its water quality conditions. The names of streams can also be identified by clicking on them. The interactive maps provide information about the aquatic species found in the stream and their sensitivity to pollution (sensitive, intermediate, or tolerant), as well as a narrated description of the watershed, providing information about key watershed stressors; stream restoration activities and their results; anticipated watershed projects; and reasons, if any, for declining water quality.

“Everyone lives within a short walk of a stream, river, or lake in Montgomery County, but not everyone knows the name of their local stream, or how healthy it is,” said Diane Cameron, of the Audubon Naturalist Society in Chevy Chase. *“DEP’s new web-based resource enables each of us to gain this local water knowledge—the first step in stewardship.”*

DEP Watershed Division Chief Steve Shofar said, “Although DEP maintained geographic data on water bodies and water quality, it was only available in specialized Geographic Information Systems databases. In response to requests from watershed groups and the public, DEP developed the Google-based display, which now allows us to provide the information in a more user-friendly way that also makes it easier to interpret.”

Hoyt stressed that the waterways information can be a powerful tool in developing awareness about pollution. “We hope these maps will build awareness about local water bodies and their aquatic life, so residents make the connection that the health of our streams is directly affected by local stormwater runoff and other pollutants.”

Urban stormwater runoff is a key stressor of water quality in the County’s watersheds. Stormwater pollution is ubiquitous and is difficult to control because it is not channeled like a piped discharge. When it rains, trash and litter, lawn clippings, fertilizers, leaking auto fluids, sediment, and other pollutants on the ground can be washed down the storm drain and flow untreated into local streams. Under the County’s stormwater permit, DEP is required to control both the volume of urban runoff and the pollution that results from it.

To view the interactive maps, go to [DEP’s website](#) . Click on Water, then select from three maps: (1) Find your local stream and watershed, (2) Conditions in local streams and watersheds, or (3) Special Protection Area watersheds. Each map option also contains more background information and videos on watersheds in the County.